Resources to Help Train Your Dairy Employees with Animal Care Responsibilities

By Betsy Hicks, Dairy Specialist - SCNY Dairy and Field Crops Team

With the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (F.A.R.M.) Program having launched version 4.0, dairy owners are now tasked with supplying continuing education (CE) for their employees (both family and non-family) that have animal care responsibilities. Continuing education is required for employees that have responsibilities with animals in stockmanship, pre-weaned calf care, fitness for transport, non-ambulatory animals or euthanasia. If an employee has animal responsibilities for calves but does not handle non-ambulatory animals, they only need continuing education for calves. Likewise, if an employee only moves cows to and from the parlor, they do not need education in calf care. CE should also be in the employees’ native language.

In FARM 3.0, only non-farm employees needed to have job-specific training. However, FARM 4.0 requirements for continuing education now includes anyone on the farm who has animal care responsibilities, including owners. This also applies to the cow care/ethics agreement. If non-family employees do not meet these criteria, an audit will trigger a Mandatory Corrective Action Plan to meet requirements within 9 months. For family members who require the above but haven’t met the criteria, a Continuous Improvement Plan will be put into place, and must be met within three years.

Luckily, there are several ways to meet the requirements of continuing education. Those mandated for CE can get on-the-job training with the herd veterinarian or nutritionist, or shadow experienced employees and managers. Dairy industry meetings that contain a talk or workshop related to animal care also count as CE. Reading articles and taking a class are two other ways that employees can get CE. Watching webinars and training videos are also an excellent way for groups of employees to gain CE, and discussed during team meetings. Many videos are available in both English and Spanish, so that all employees can have a quality experience.

Also important, documenting the manner of CE is required. The FARM website has resources that farm managers can download and customize for each employee with animal care responsibilities, and maintain in a folder. The Dairy Cattle Care Training Log (Picture 1) is one such way that managers can achieve this requirement. Alternatively, there is a Dairy Cattle Care Training Activity Attendance Form that farm managers can have employees sign after holding an on-farm training.

The rest of the article is an effort to pull together the various resources that are available online that can be used as a part of a curriculum for employees to learn job-specific information. As always, producers can reach out to their local Extension Educator for pulling together resources and setting up a system for offering and documenting continuing education for their employees.

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Picture 1 – Dairy Cattle Care Training Log, National Dairy FARM Program

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New Administrative Assistant, Donette Griffith

Welcome to the new team Administrative Assistant in the Cortland County office! Donette Griffith has been with us since December 6th and has already hit the ground running with our last newsletter and our Winter Crop Meeting!

Griffith brings many years of experience in desktop publishing, graphic design, event organization, and customer service to the table. She has an Associates in Equine Science from SUNY Morrisville and is currently completing her Bachelors in Liberal Arts: Communications and Music. When she is not in our office, she is a substitute teacher with the Whitney Point School District.

Donette and her husband, Alan, reside on a 164-acre horse and beef cattle farm with their three children, Landon (15), Logan (13) and Leah (9). Donette and Alan, with 4-H, have aided their son Landon to start his own small livestock business, “Old Enough to Grow Better”. Griffith has also been a 4-H leader of the Stars & Strides with Broome County since 2016. Donette has served as National Director / Pageant Coordinator for Miss Rodeo New York, Inc. since 2012 where she provides young women a platform to represent the Empire state’s agriculture, livestock, animal welfare and rodeo industries. She also helps prepare them to represent NY at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas, NV.

Griffith is thrilled to be able to combine her administrative talents with her love for all things agriculture with the South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops team!

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We are pleased to provide you with this information as part of the Cooperative Extension Dairy and Field Crops Program serving Broome, Cortland, Chemung, Onondaga, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. Anytime we may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call or visit our office. Visit our website: http://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu and like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SCNYDairyandFieldCropsTeam.

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We put knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping our families and our community thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

“Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities”
The National FARM Program website is full of resources, worksheets and videos to assist farm managers in creating, giving and documenting animal care continuing education for their employees. Videos such as Natural Behavior in Cattle, Understanding the Flight Zone and Handling Cattle in Alleys, Holding Areas and Milk Parlors are available for producers to use for CE. There are also supplemental quizzes, in both English and Spanish, which can be used to assess knowledge transfer. These can be found at nationaldairyfarm.com/producer-resources/.

Merck Dairy Care 365
Dairy Care 365 is an online dashboard that contains videos on several topics related to animal care. Newborn Care and Handling, Calf Handling & Stockmanship and Low-Stress Handling of Dairy Calves and Heifers are three modules that employees who work with newborn calves can view. Additional animal care modules offered include Introduction to Dairy Stockmanship and Moving Cows to the Milking Parlor. Milkers and herdspersons can view these videos. Those involved with handling non-ambulatory cows should be trained on this topic, and there is a video for that as well. Dairy Care 365 can be found online at dairycare365.com.

Cornell PRO-DAIRY Program
Cornell’s PRO-DAIRY Program periodically holds webinars on various topics related to animal care, herd health and calf care. These webinars can be watched live, or viewed later as recordings are archived in a central location. Archived recordings include Baby It’s Cold Outside! Winter Calf Care, Cow Comfort on NY Tiestall and Freestall Dairies and Applied Dairy Immunology and Vaccination Protocol Management. Spanish webinars are also available, and include Milking Routine SOPs and Mastitis Identification, Basic Physiology of how Milk is Produced, and Practical Considerations for Feeding Dairy Calves. The website for all webinars can be located at https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/webinars/.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Dairy Extension
The Dairy Extension team at UW also has a set of video resources. These include Dehorning Calves Using Pain Mitigation Techniques, Effective Cattle Handling, and Safe Operation of Skid Steer Loaders among lots of others. They can be found at https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/dairy/resources/videos/.

(Continued from page 1)
Farmers and landowners can now make the decision between farm programs, receiving commodity title payments from either Agricultural Risk Coverage at the county level (ARC-CO) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) for each covered commodity with base acres on the farm; the Agricultural Risk Coverage at the individual level (ARC-IC) is also available but must be elected for all covered commodities with base acres on the farm. For the 2019 and 2020 programs, the deadline for the decision for each Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm is March 15th, 2020. This article describes the ARC-CO option contained in 2018 Farm Bill. Future articles will describe PLC, making choices between PLC and ARC-CO, and ARC-IC.

**Differences between 2014 and 2018 ARC-CO Programs**

The ARC-CO program was in the 2014 Farm Bill, and ARC-CO was selected for the vast majority of corn and soybean acres during the 2014 sign-up. Differences between the ARC-CO in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills are:

- The 2018 Farm Bill makes payments on the county where the farm is located. For the 2014 Farm Bill, the administrative county of the farm was used to determine payments (there was a one-time option to change the administrative county in 2014).
- Yields from crop insurance will be given preference in the calculation of county yields in the 2018 Farm Bill. For the 2014 Farm Bill, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) data were given first preference.
- For 2018, 80% of the t-yield is yield as the floor on county yields. For 2014, 70% of the t-yield was the plug yield.
- For 2018, county yields are trend adjusted before calculating benchmark yield. The trend adjustment was not used in 2014 Farm Bill.
- For 2018, there is an effective reference price that can be higher than the reference price if 85% of the five-year Olympic average is above the reference price. The 2014 ARC-CO program did not have this escalator provision.
- For the 2018 Farm Bill, benchmark yields and prices used in calculating benchmark yields, prices, and revenues are lagged one year. The 2014 Farm Bill did not lag data.
- For the 2018 Farm Bill, the choice between commodity title programs is not binding over the life of the 2018 Farm Bill. By March 15th, 2020, farmers and land owners will choose for the 2019 and 2020 program years. A yearly decision then can be made for 2021, 2022, and 2023. For the 2014 Farm Bill, the commodity title choice was made for all program years from 2014 to 2018.

**Benchmark Revenue for ARC-CO in the 2018 Farm Bill**

ARC-CO is a county revenue program that will make a payment when county revenue is below an ARC-CO guarantee. The ARC-CO guarantee is 86% of benchmark revenue, with benchmark revenue equaling benchmark yield times a benchmark price. The calculation of the guarantee will be illustrated for non-irrigated corn in Champaign County for 2019.

Both the benchmark yield and benchmark price will be based on five-year Olympic averages that drop the highest and lowest years out of the average. For 2019, averages are based on data from 2013 to 2017, and will not include data from 2018. This is a revision to the ARC-CO calculation from the 2014 ARC-CO program; a one-year lag in the Olympic average allows farmers and landowners to know the ARC-CO guarantee at sign-up.

Benchmark yield will be based on a trend-adjusted Olympic average. Table 1 shows the steps required to calculate the benchmark yield. The 2019 benchmark yield calculation begins with county yields for the years from 2013 through 2017. Those yields for corn in Champaign County are 183.4 bushels per acre for 2013, 227.7 for 2014, 205.0 for 2015, 223.9 for 2016, and 214.2 for 2017 (see Table 1). Those yields are based on crop insurance data compiled by RMA. The higher of these yields or 80% of the county T-yield are used in calculations. The t-yields for Champaign County are 140.8 bushels per acre for years up to 2017 and 145.6 bushels per acre in 2017. In all cases, the actual Champaign County yields are higher than the t-yields (see Table 1).

A trend adjustment then is added to each yearly yield. This trend adjustment accounts for the fact that corn yields have been increasing over time. The trend adjustment factor for Champaign County is 1.71 bushels per acre, the same factor that the Risk Management Agency (RMA) uses in calculating trend adjustment yields for crop insurance purposes. The 2013 year is six years from 2019. Therefore 1.71 times 6 results in a trend yield adjustment of 10.3 bushels per acre for 2013 (see Table 1). The 2014 yield is five years from 2019, resulting in an 8.6 bushel per acre adjustment (5 x 1.71). Trend adjustments for 2015 through 2017 are calculated in a similar manner.

(Continued on page 5)
The yearly trend yield adjustments then are added to the “Higher of Actual or 80% of T-Yield” to give “Trend Adjusted ARC-CO yield”. For corn in Champaign County, trend adjusted yields range from 193.7 bushels per acre for 2013 up to 236.3 bushels per acre in 2014 (see Table 1).

The benchmark yield is the Olympic average of the yearly adjusted ARC-CO yields. In the Champaign county case, the 193.7 yield in 2013 and the 236.3 yields in 2014 are eliminated because they are the lowest and highest yields. The 219.5 benchmark yield then is the average of the middle three yields (219.5 = (211.8 + 229.0 + 217.6) / 3). The benchmark price calculation begins with the national average Market Year Average (MYA) prices for corn. For both corn and soybeans, MYA prices are calculated from September to August. The MYA prices were $4.46 per bushel in 2013, $3.70 for 2014, $3.61 for 2015, $3.36 for 2014, and $3.36 for 2017. The higher of these MYA prices or the effective reference price will enter into the calculation of the benchmark price.

The effective reference price is the higher of the reference price or 85% of the five-year Olympic moving average of MYA prices. For corn, the statutory reference price is $3.70 per bushel. The moving average of Olympic prices must average $4.35 per bushel before 85% of that Olympic average will increase the effective reference above the $3.70 statutory reference price. An Olympic average above $4.35 for corn will not likely happen for the foreseeable future.

For benchmark price calculations, a $4.46 price is used for 2013, and $3.70 prices are used for 2014 through 2017 (see Table 2). The $3.70 price is used because the MYA prices for 2014 to 2017 are below the $3.70 reference price. The benchmark price is $3.70 (see Table 2). Note that the benchmark price cannot go below the $3.70 reference price.

Benchmark revenue equals the benchmark yield times the benchmark price. For corn in Champaign County, benchmark revenue is $812.15 per acre (219.5 yield x $3.70 benchmark price). The ARC-CO guarantee is 86% of the benchmark revenue or $698.45 per acre (see Table 3).

### Table 1. Calculation of Benchmark Yield for Agricultural Risk Coverage at County Level (ARC-CO), Non-Irrigated Corn in Champaign County in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County Yield</th>
<th>80% of T-Yield</th>
<th>Higher of Actual or 80% of T-Yield</th>
<th>Number of Trend Years</th>
<th>Trend Adjustment</th>
<th>Trend Adjusted Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>183.4</td>
<td>146.8</td>
<td>183.4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>193.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>227.7</td>
<td>180.0</td>
<td>227.7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>236.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>206.0</td>
<td>164.8</td>
<td>205.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>211.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>223.6</td>
<td>178.8</td>
<td>223.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>228.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>214.2</td>
<td>171.4</td>
<td>214.2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>217.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* County yields are from crop insurance data from the Risk Management Agency.
* The higher of actual county yield or 80% of T-Yield.
* The higher of the reference price of 85% of the five-year moving average of yields.
* The trend yield for corn in Champaign County is 1.71. This value is multiplied by the number of trend years.
* Equals the higher of Actual or 80% of T-Yield plus the yearly trend adjustment.
* Olympic average of 2013 to 2017 trend adjusted ARC-CO yields. An Olympic average eliminates the high and low values, and then averages the remaining values.

### Table 2. Calculation of Benchmark Price, Corn, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MYA Price</th>
<th>Effective Reference Price</th>
<th>Used in Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4.46</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Market Year Average (MYA) price.
* Higher of reference price or 85% of Olympic moving average price.
* Olympic average of 2013 to 2017 prices. An Olympic average eliminates the high and low values, and then averages the remaining values.

### Table 3. Calculation of ARC-CO Guarantee for Non-Irrigated Corn in Champaign County, Illinois, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark Yield (from Table 1)</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Benchmark Revenue</th>
<th>ARC-CO Guarantee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>219.5</td>
<td>$3.70</td>
<td>$812.15</td>
<td>$698.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4. Calculation of ARC-CO Payment per Base Acre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARC-CO Guarantee (from Table 3)</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
<th>Payment per Base Acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$698.45</td>
<td>$33.45</td>
<td>$28.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 190 bushel per acre county yield and a $3.50 MYA price will equal $665 per acre in county revenue. Under that scenario, ARC-CO will make a payment because county revenue is below the ARC-CO guarantee. When a payment occurs, the payment rate is calculated as the ARC-CO guarantee minus county revenue, not to exceed 10% of the benchmark revenue. In this example, the payment rate is $33.45 ($698.45 guarantee minus $665.00 county revenue) as $33.34 is less than the maximum ARC-CO rate of $81.22 (0.10 x $812.15 benchmark).

ARC-CO will be paid on 85% of base acres. The 85% is the same as for PLC. In the example, the $33.45 payment rate translates into a $28.43 payment per base acre. These commodity title programs may be reduced further due to sequester.

Farmers can run payment calculation scenarios for their farms using the Gardner-farmdoc too, available here: https://fd-tools.ncsa.illinois.edu.

**For New York county yields, benchmark yields, and revenues, see tables on page 11.**
Farm Business

Dairy Grazing Discussion Group

Connecting The Dots: Linking Dollars to Dairy Grazing Decisions

_Do you want more quality grazing days? Are you ready to make more money within your grazing system? Do you know your cost of production for pasture? Are you dealing with weather events proactively? Can you get away for a vacation during the growing season?_

**When:** 11am - 3pm on Tuesday February 25, 2020  
**Where:** Venture Farms, 6978 Route 80, Tully, NY 13159  
**Who:** All grazing dairies!  
**Cost:** Free, but you must register in advance  
**Register here:** https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php or call Donette at 607-391-2662

Join the South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team for a conversation about how to plan and manage your grazing system to achieve the results that you want! **Madison County Grazing Specialist and veteran grazier Troy Bishop, aka The Grass Whisperer, will be on hand to facilitate a discussion around grazing approaches and planning tools.**

Using Bishop’s custom “Jumbo-Tron” grazing chart tool, farmers can actively predict changes in recovery periods and see trouble brewing, while developing management scenarios to save money at every decision. Troy’s light-hearted show and tell format will draw on his own farm grazing experience and approaches from his mentors to implementing a consistent season right into winter grazing.

**Our Dairy Specialist Betsy Hicks and Farm Business Management Specialist Mary Kate Wheeler will also share tools for calculating pasture costs and tracking income over feed costs throughout the grazing season.** Understanding the cost of production for pasture can help dairy graziers connect the dots between grazing decisions and dollars.

Bring your own farm map, grazing plan, grazing charts, etc. to the meeting so that we can draw from everyone’s experiences and perspectives on developing a grazing plan that really works. Lunch will be served, followed by an ice-cream sundae bar to add nutrients for a lively conversation! This meeting is supported by a grant from the Dairy Advancement Program (DAP).

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**EPA Finalizes Glyphosate Mitigation**


EPA has concluded its regulatory review of glyphosate—the most widely used herbicide in the United States. After a thorough review of the best available science, as required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, EPA has concluded that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used according to the label and that it is not a carcinogen. These findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the European Food Safety Authority, and the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The agency is requiring additional mitigation measures to help farmers target pesticide sprays to the intended pest and reduce the problem of increasing glyphosate resistance in weeds.

Glyphosate has been studied for decades and the agency reviewed thousands of studies since its registration. Glyphosate is used on more than 100 food crops, including glyphosate-resistant corn, soybean, cotton, canola, and sugar beet. It is the leading herbicide for the management of invasive and noxious weeds and is used to manage pastures, rangeland, rights of ways, forests, public land, and residential areas. In addition, glyphosate has low residual soil toxicity and helps retain no-till and low-till farming operations.

More information on glyphosate and EPA’s interim decision is available at [www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/glyphosate](http://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/glyphosate).

**Background** EPA uses interim decisions to finalize enforceable mitigation measures while conducting other longer-term assessments, such as an endangered species assessment. EPA will next complete a draft biological evaluation for glyphosate, which is anticipated for public comment in Fall 2020.
Value Added Producer Grant

Source: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on Grants.gov.

**Maximum Grant Amount:** Planning Grants $75,000; Working Capital Grants: $250,000.

**Matching Funds Requirements:** 50 percent of total project costs.

**Application Deadline for FY 2020:** March 10, 2020

**Who may apply for this program?**

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the program regulation, are eligible to apply for this program.

**How may funds be used?**

Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include:

- Processing costs.
- Marketing and advertising expenses.
- Some inventory and salary expenses.

**How do I get started?**

Before you apply: Request a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number if your organization doesn’t already have one.

Register your organization with the System for Award Management (SAM) if you aren’t already registered.

**Additional requirements:**

Please read the Federal Register notice for the details on how to apply. Applicants should put together the required information at least a month before the application deadline. The extra time allows for collection of other required materials such as letters of commitment or support from other organizations, a work plan and budget, and other information. Copies of required forms are available from your nearest Rural Development Office. See the Forms & Resources tab for optional forms that may assist you in developing your application.

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**The Office of United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invite you to attend a workshop to prepare your farm or organization for the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) application period.**

The primary goal of the VAPG program is to help agricultural producers create and market new value-added products that can help farmers and ranchers improve their bottom line. Since 2000, VAPG has helped farmers acquire needed equipment, assisted with marketing and advertising costs, created business plans, and conducted feasibility studies on various products and growth methods.

This workshop will help potential applicants understand the purpose of the VAPG program, funding priorities, and the award evaluation process in order to help them prepare successful applications.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4th, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Seneca County Building & Grounds
1 Dipronio Dr, Waterloo, NY 13165

Parking at the South entrance

**For any further information or questions and to RSVP, please contact:**
Christina Gray, Deputy Regional Director Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Christina_gray@gillibrand.senate.gov

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Why should you get BQAT Training?

1. You directly haul cull animals to packing plants that require it
   ⇒ FSIS-UDSA updated policies to reflect that not only employees of packing plants would be held responsible for animal mishandling, but anyone on packing plant property
   ⇒ Packing plants want to ensure all drivers delivering animals to the plant have been trained in proper handling and care of animals during loading, transport and unloading
   ⇒ Packing plants are the ones to set the requirement for BQAT training, not the government
2. It’s free to attend either in-person training
3. If you cannot attend in-person or need certification sooner, you can take the online certification course at https://bqatransportation.beeflearningcenter.org/
4. At this time, there is no similar policy requiring BQAT certification for drivers delivering animals to auction barns, but it may be a requirement in the future

Betsy Hicks

Transportation quality assurance plays a critical role in the health and welfare of cattle. The proper handling and transport of cattle can reduce sickness in calves, prevent bruises, and improve the quality of the meat from these animals. By using best practices, transporters can save the beef industry millions of dollars each year. When a transporter participates in the program they are showing consumers they are ready to take every step possible to keep cattle as healthy and safe as possible.

The program covers many topics including:
⇒ Cattle handling guidelines & diagrams
⇒ Checklists for loading/unloading
⇒ Checklists for hot/cold weather factors
⇒ Checklists for fit/injured/weak cattle
⇒ Checklist for traveling
⇒ Loading suggestions and worksheets
⇒ Bio-security & Emergency Action Plans

Online BQA Transportation Certification is available at bqatransportation.beeflearningcenter.org

IN-PERSON BQAT TRAININGS

Saturday, February 29th 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
New York State Farm Show, Dairy Barn, 581 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY
Cost: FREE
RSVP/MORE INFORMATION- by February 20th to Barbara Jones, CCE/Event Coordinator, bij6@cornell.edu, 607-255-7712

Friday, March 27th 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Unadilla Livestock Company, 76 Maple Ave, Unadilla, NY 13849
Cost: FREE
RSVP/MORE INFORMATION- Ashley McFarland, 315 866 7920, Am2876@cornell.edu

A re-certification form is available online at the following link: https://admin.spurcms.org/Media/NYBeef/Docs/bqa-recertificationnorm-2017.pdf

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Northeast Dairy Management Conference

Holiday Inn - Liverpool, NY
March 11 - 12, 2020

Presented by Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY and Northeast Dairy Producers Association

The Northeast Dairy Management Conference is designed for producers and agriservice professionals to interact and relate to the latest thinking and issues in the dairy industry. Dynamic and informative sessions will challenge your thinking to re-energize your business and improve performance. Connect with other progressive dairy producers and advisors to build your network for long term success.

Webpage https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/ne-dairy/

For More Information

Heather Darrow, Conference Coordinator
272 Morrison Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607-255-4478
Fax: 607-255-1335
Email: dmconf@cornell.edu

South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Digest
HERD RECRUITMENT FOR DISCUSSION

SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team

DISCUSSION GROUP DETAILS:
- Tentative Date of April 1
- Enrollment in Dairy Profit Monitor
- Monthly assistance in record keeping and DPM
- Meeting in January 2021 with all farms
- Reimbursement of DPM fee to farms that complete 9 months of DPM

HERD ELIGIBILITY: Herd must agree to the above discussion group details * Herd should be less than 120 lactating cows * Herd does not utilize herd record keeping software such as Dairy Comp or PCDart, but can use test-day data * Herd does not complete a Dairy Farm Business Summary * Farm is given the first three month of DPM free, annual fee is reimbursed after nine months of data is compiled at the second group meeting

QUESTIONS and ENROLLMENT: Contact Betsy Hicks bjh246@cornell.edu or 607.391.2673

Discussion Group will meet in the Cortland area * Group meetings will have meal provided. * Other than the Dairy Profit Monitor annual fee, there is no cost to participate! * After nine months of data is compiled, the DPM annual fee will be reimbursed to the farm at the second discussion group meeting * Please reach out with any questions!
Summary of Foliar Fungicide Applications on Gray Leaf Spot and Yield of Corn in Iowa in 2019

Written by Alison Robertson, Professor of Plant Pathology and Microbiology


January 27, 2020

This article summarizes our 2019 corn foliar fungicide trials that were done at six locations in Iowa. As in years past, these trials were done to provide data to farmers to help determine if a foliar fungicide was necessary. Our objectives were 1) assess the effect of timing of application of fungicides on disease, 2) evaluate the yield response of hybrid corn to foliar fungicide application, and 3) discern differences, if any, between fungicide products.

Products used and application timings tested

Eight products at various application timings were evaluated (Table 1). Timing of application varied among products and was suggested by the companies contributing each product. Fungicides were applied at growth stage V12, R1 and R3. No surfactant was included in applications made at V12. At NERF, an application was made based on the Tarspotter App that indicated a high risk of tar spot occurring. This application occurred at approximately 1/2 milkline (R5). Disease in the trials was assessed at R5 at all locations except for SERF where the crop was at R3 due to delayed planting. Percent disease in the canopy below the ear leaf, the ear leaf, and the canopy above was estimated visually.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>AEA</th>
<th>NERF</th>
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Diseases observed in the trials

Gray leaf spot (GLS) was observed at all locations, although severity was low (Table 1). The most severe GLS was observed at SWRF, where the mean GLS severity in the non-sprayed check was 13.8%. Other diseases observed at various locations included common rust, southern rust, northern corn leaf blight and bacterial leaf streak. All were present at very low levels (<1% of the canopy affected). No tar spot was observed in the trial at the NERF location.

Effect of product and timing on GLS

In general, all fungicides reduced GLS. At all locations except SWRF, a V12 application reduced GLS more than an application at R1 (although this was not always significant (P<0.1)). An application at V12 reduced GLS significantly more than an application at R3 at the NERF, NRF and NERF (P<0.1).

Effect of product and timing on yield

Yields of the non-sprayed check ranged from 216.7 bu/A at AEA to 234.6 bu/A at NERF (Table 1). In general, greater yields occurred with an application of fungicide, although yield differences were only significant at NERF (P<0.1). The mean yield response for an application of fungicide at V12, R1 and R3 across all trials was 4.2 bu/A, 7.2 bu/A and 6.9 bu/A, respectively. Note however, that yield responses varied considerably among locations, time of application and product.

Management recommendations

All fungicides in these trials were effective against gray leaf spot. For a list of fungicides effective against GLS and all diseases on corn, the following publication is available “Fungicide efficacy for corn diseases” from the Crop Protection Network. This publication is updated annually by corn pathologists across the U.S. and Ontario, Canada.

(Continued on page 11)
Applications at V12 reduced disease, that is GLS severity, more than applications during reproductive growth. In 2017, V12 applications also reduced GLS more than applications at R1.

Remember GLS always starts in the lower canopy. With applications at V12, fungicides are more likely to reach the lower canopy and protect the lowest leaves against infection by the gray leaf spot pathogen.

Greater yields occurred with applications made during reproductive stages. This is consistent with what we have seen in previous years, e.g., 2015, 2017, and 2018.

This remains puzzling since one would expect less disease results in greater yields. Research is ongoing at ISU, but these data suggest that it may pay to wait until tasseling to spray particularly if disease severity is negligible or very low at V12.

To limit resistance to fungicide chemistries from developing, avoid spraying “just because”. Target fields that are more likely to have disease such as those planted to susceptible hybrids, low-lying fields where morning fogs occur, or fields with a history of disease. Scouting fields or keeping up-to-date with diseases occurring in your region via the ipmPIPE website, or extension pathologists and agronomists on social media can also keep you informed on the risk of disease and the need for a fungicide application.

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In general, applications made at R3 reduced GLS the least.

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<th>County Name</th>
<th>Crop Name</th>
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<th>2014 trend adjusted (county yield or 80% of T)</th>
<th>2015 trend adjusted (county yield or 80% of T)</th>
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<th>2019 Benchmark Mark (2013-17 Olympic avg)</th>
<th>2019 Benchmark Mark Price (2013-17 Olympic avg)</th>
<th>2019 Benchmark Revenue</th>
<th>2019 Guarantee Revenue</th>
<th>2019 Maximum Payment Rate</th>
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The first year of a dairy heifer’s life has the highest per day costs mainly due to the whole milk fed and labor required for young calves. This fact is the reason why the inaction of the USDA to close a known loophole in the National Organic Program (NOP) has allowed certain dairies to raise their young stock with conventional methods which reduces the cost by up to $7 per day. A recent Cornell study compared the costs of production for organically raised calves from day 1 to those raised non organically and transitioned before freshening. The study showed that the loophole allowed dairies whose certifiers allowed conventional raising of the newborn calf to one year of age to save $884 per animal for feed and labor. This puts dairies that follow the NOP rule at a significant disadvantage, specifically in the Northeast.

In 2014 conventional milk prices peaked and have since been near or below the cost of production. This fact plus the declining market for conventional milk caused large Western dairies to become interested in entering the market but quickly realized their method of high milk production high grain feeding and fewer lactations from the cows made the requirement of raising replacements much too high. Certifiers that oversee those dairies chose to read the Origin of Livestock rule differently to allow heifers to be raised conventionally for their first year and then transitioned for one year prior to milking. The USDA has been aware of this loophole and in July 2013, the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) published an audit report on organic milk operations stating that certifying agents were interpreting the origin of livestock requirements differently. According to the OIG report, three of the six certifiers interviewed by OIG allowed producers to continuously transition additional animals into a herd after the initial herd made the transition to organic milk production, while the other three certifiers did not permit this practice. OIG recommended that a proposed rule be issued to clarify the standard and ensure that all certifiers consistently apply and enforce the origin of livestock requirements. The proposed rule of April 28, 2015 would have fixed the problem, but that rule was removed by the new Administration in 2016.

In December of 2018 the New York Organic Dairy Task Force met at the Dairy Farmers of America offices in Syracuse. There was discussion on the negative impact on Northeast organic dairies created by large dairies in western states flooding milk into the organic market. These dairies were utilizing a loophole created in the NOP in the “Origin of Livestock” rule which results in a substantially lower cost of raising dairy replacements compared to organic dairies whose certifiers allow a one time transition of dairy animals. The loophole was to be repaired by a new rule in 2015 but it was blocked before it could take effect. The Task Force directed and provided funding for Fay Benson, Cornell Cooperative Extension educator and project manager for the Cornell Organic Dairy Program to complete a study of what it costs for dairy farmers who raise dairy replacements without biocides or growth stimulants such as coccidiostats. The organic method focuses on natural methods to prevent health issues rather than treat them with synthetics. Data for the study was collected from three certified organic dairies in Central New York. Benson used a cost analysis created by Jason Karszes, Farm Business Specialist with Cornell’s PRODAIRY Program. By using the same analysis with the organic dairies as that used for conventional dairies would allow the results to be compared. Cost and data collected for this analysis included:

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,060.92</td>
<td>$3,637.99</td>
<td>$2,312.20</td>
<td>$3,638.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dairy Replacement Cost Differ Significantly for the First Year**

Western dairies who were being allowed to raise their dairy replacements conventionally for the first year of the animals’ lives and then transition the animals to organic status in the year prior to the animal first starting to milk. The difference in cost of production created by the NOP “loophole” occurred during the first year of the dairy animal’s life. For this reason, Benson tracked the cost of raising the dairy animal’s first year of life under the natural and more difficult organic regime.
Mobile Medical Program

Not having transportation makes it difficult for many agricultural workers to get to our health centers. Our strategy? If the patient can’t come to us, we’ll go to them. Through this award-winning program, traveling medical teams visit the housing sites of agricultural workers. Consisting of a medical provider and a bilingual Community Health Worker, the teams provide triage, screening, routine care, referrals and if needed, transportation to the nearest FLCH health center. They also seek out isolated pockets of agricultural workers, informing the farming community of the services available.

Continued from page 12 “Northeast Organic Dairies...”

The Results for Organic Farms vs Conventional

The most recent publication by Cornell PRODAIRY showed that 18 conventional dairy heifer growers in New York averaged costs averaging $1,060.92 during the first year of an animal’s life. Below are the results of of the individual costs of the three organic farms who took part in the study.

Realizing that cost of feed accounts for over 50% and labor 12% of the cost of raising a dairy replacement, any changes to those dramatically impacts the total cost to raise that animal. The first year of a dairy calf’s life has the highest cost per day. This is when calves are fed milk or milk replacer. In the conventional dairy study this period averaged 50 days. On the organic farms milk was fed for an average of 89 days. The reason milk is fed longer on organic farms is to give the calf better vitality, and to protect it from calf health issues such as naturally occurring coccidiosis. On conventional farms the synthetic coccidiostats are used to control this disease and also act as a growth stimulant which shortens the period a calf is fed milk. Also during the time calves are fed milk, labor is the most intensive because the calves are handled individually. Allowing the conventional raising of “pre” organic heifers allows these dairies to avoid the higher costs of feeding organic milk and also shortens the expensive period prior to weaning.

Below are some breakouts of the costs per animal per day from the conventional study and the three organic farms. The big difference in milk cost/day/calf between the conventional and the organic is due to the value of the milk being fed to the calf. Organic milk price is more than double the price of conventional milk. Organic Farm A reduced their cost of milk by feeding some waste milk. Organic Farm S had the highest cost mainly due to the 112 days of feeding milk to the calves. They also had the smallest herd size so that labor was spread over fewer animals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Costs</th>
<th>Conventional Cost</th>
<th>Organic Farm R</th>
<th>Organic Farm A</th>
<th>Organic Farm S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk /day/ calf</td>
<td>$3.60</td>
<td>$8.05</td>
<td>$5.05</td>
<td>$7.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor/day/ calf</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$3.12</td>
<td>$4.93</td>
<td>$3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days fed milk</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Weaned Cost/calf-</td>
<td>$255</td>
<td>$938</td>
<td>$698</td>
<td>$1,139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart shows the per day costs for milk, feed and labor for a weaned dairy calf.

On-Farm Transition Cow Support
(Spanish & English)

Alltech’s On-Farm Support Specialist, Jorge Delgado will be leading discussion around Transition Cow Care and the Maternity Pen. Both Spanish and English speaking employees and owners are invited to attend!

This is a great opportunity to come together over a meal to troubleshoot problems on-farm, and bridge gaps between owners and employees, including language barriers.

Agenda:
- 11 am - Farm Owners/Managers meet with Jorge to uncover factors to engage employees. Employees that arrive with owners/managers will be taken on a brief tour of the farm
- Noon - Farm Owners/Managers and Employees enjoy lunch together
- 12:45 - Employees meet with Jorge to discuss best management practices and troubleshoot problems with transition cow management
- 3 pm - Safe Travels Home

Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 25th
Betsy Hicks 607.391.2673 Donette Griffith 607-391-2662
Email to dg576@cornell.edu or Register Online at:
https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration.php?event=1107

Where:
New Hope View Farm LLC
5937 US Route 11
Homer, NY 13077

When:
Wed. February 26, 2020
11:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Lunch will be provided for those that RSVP. Lunch will be served at Noon.

Spring Manure Handling & Truck Safety Workshop

This meeting is targeted at both experienced and new farmworkers who are operating trucks and ag equipment while applying manure and harvesting crops. There will be CAFO training credits available for farms that need them.

9:00 Registration & Donuts
courtesy of Onondaga & Cortland SWCD & CCE

9:30 Manure Application Mistakes and How to Prevent Them
Matt Kazmierski, NYSDEC and Karl Czymmek, Cornell Pro Dairy
Housekeeping on the Farm, Road & Field and Its Impact on Community Relations
Mark Burger, Onondaga County SWCD

11:00 Safe Operation of Drag Hose Manure Application Systems.
Doug Potter, DSSC cover recent accidents and offer tips on reducing the personal safety risks while using drag hose manure application equipment.

12:00 BBQ Lunch -$15.00 per person, payable at this time.

1:00 Truck DOT & Highway Safety Issues with Trucks & Agricultural Equipment Including Truck Inspection Demonstration
Personnel from the Troop C NYSP Commercial Vehicle Unit & USDOT

- Details about the new drug testing regulations will be covered
- Drug Testing Services Tony Geddes, Safe Systems Corporation

Location:
CNY PowerSports
3865 US Rte 11, Cortland, NY 13045

Date: Monday, March 6th
Time: 9:00 am
Cost: $15/per person (for lunch)
Host:
Dairy Support Services Co & SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team

For more information or to register online, visit: https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1098

Or register with Donette at 607-391-2662 or email dg576@cornell.edu
NYSERDA offers free energy audits to help eligible farms identify ways to save energy and money on utility bills. Reports include recommendations for energy efficiency measures.

**Eligibility**

Eligible farms include but are not limited to dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain, and poultry/egg. The farms must also be customers of New York State investor-owned utilities and contribute to the System Benefits Charge (SBC). Please check your farm’s current electric bills to see if your farm pays the SBC.

**Energy audit options**

You can request the level of energy audit that best fits your farm’s needs. NYSERDA will assign a Flexible Technical Assistance Program Consultant to visit your farm and perform an energy audit at no cost to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Audit Activities</th>
<th>Type of Report that the Farm Receives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Detailed energy audit</td>
<td>Energy audit report with calculated evaluations of appropriate energy efficiency measures including simple payback; meets ANSI/ASABE S612 standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td>Energy audit focused on specific systems, energy efficiency measures, or renewable energy</td>
<td>System-specific energy analysis report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Get started**

Visit [nyserda.ny.gov/agriculture](http://nyserda.ny.gov/agriculture) to download an application or apply online. Call 1-800-732-1399 to learn more, request an application, or for assistance with determining the audit level.

Community Energy Advisers can also help with applications, questions, and information about other energy-related programs. See [www.smartenergychoices.org](http://www.smartenergychoices.org) or contact Karim Beers at kwb6@cornell.edu - (607) 272-2292
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee/Details</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Modern On-Farm Preparedness - Biosecurity &amp; Diseases -Webinar; Fee: $10/ per person</td>
<td>Homer, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1026">FMI</a> &amp; <a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1057">Owego</a></td>
<td>1-2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Connecting The Dots: Linking Dollars to Dairy Grazing Decisions; Tully NY - No Charge/Must Register</td>
<td>Tully NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1085">FMI</a></td>
<td>11-3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>On-Farm Transition Cow Support w/ Alltech; New Hope View Farm Homer, NY; No Charge/Must Register</td>
<td>Homer, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1108">FMI</a></td>
<td>11-3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Modern On-Farm Preparedness - On-Farm Safety; Fee: $10/ per person; E-Z Acres, Homer, NY</td>
<td>Homer, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1027">FMI</a></td>
<td>1 – 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27-29</td>
<td>New York State Farm Show at Syracuse Fairgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.newyorkfarmshow.com/en/home.html">FMI</a></td>
<td>8:30—4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>FSA Ag Appreciation Luncheon</td>
<td>Dryden Fire Hall, 22 North Street, 13053</td>
<td>RSVP by Feb 28 to 753-0851 ext. 2</td>
<td>11a -2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Manure Handling and Trucking Safety Workshop; CNY PowerSports Cortland, NY; $15/lunch at door</td>
<td>Cortland, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1098">FMI</a></td>
<td>9a - 3:15p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>New York Certified Organic Meetings—Martin Auction Barn, 1036 NY-318, Waterloo</td>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1111">FMI</a></td>
<td>10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11-12</td>
<td>North East Dairy Producers Meeting; Holiday Inn- Liverpool, NY</td>
<td>Liverpool, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/ne">FMI</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Chemung County Ag &amp; Farmland Protection Meeting</td>
<td>Big Flats Community Room, 476 Maple Street,14814</td>
<td>RSVP to Chemung Cty SWCD 607-334-8634</td>
<td>10 am—2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Pioneer Dairy Forage &amp; Crop Meeting w/ VanPelt Farms</td>
<td>See Team Calendar for Details.</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1108">FMI</a></td>
<td>10:30 –2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>National Agricultural Day Dinner Celebration</td>
<td>Tinelli’s 1937 Route 41, Solon 13040</td>
<td>RSVP to 607-756-5005 by 3/18  Cost $15—Mail to Cortland County BDC, 40 Main Street, Cortland NY 13045 (check payable to Cortland County BDC)</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Calf Care Meeting w/ Purina (Spanish &amp; English) - Venture Farms– Tully, NY; No Charge/Must Register</td>
<td>Tully, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1108">FMI</a></td>
<td>11:30 –1:30p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>